

MMSP Newsletter August 1999

Motorcycle Maintenance Tip

Pack it Right

The right way to pack is as important as what to pack. Make sure that your load is centered, stable, and that only the right stuff is loaded. A good rule of thumb is as follows:

You can't get very far if your bike breaks down, so bike maintenance items should take priority.

Second priority should be personal comfort items, including motorcycle riding gear and camping items.

Third on the agenda are things that you'd like to take, but aren't quite sure if they will fit, like portable washing machines, hair dryers, etc.... Part of the fun is knowing what to pack, and what not to pack.

Two up? What?

Okay, so we all know you can ride, but can your passenger? Or can you with a passenger? Maybe you just want to instill a little confidence in your passenger. Well here's your chance to improve your odds. We will teach one class next year. If you are interested in this class, please reply to Paul or I ASAP. This class will have room for twelve bikes and will be filled on a first come first serve basis. The date will be announced later, expect mid spring time frame.

Motorcycle Riding Tip

Gassing Up? - Get OFF!

By James R. Davis

The tank is running low so you pull into a service station next to a pump. Down goes the kickstand. The next few things you do could save your life.

*Turn off your motor

If gasoline were to spill as you bring the nozzle to the tank or as a result of overflow or as you take the nozzle out of the tank, you risk setting it ablaze. You should be concerned not just about a hot engine or exhaust pipes, but also any electrical system.

*Take your helmet off

If your helmet is on you cannot determine if a fire has started as easily as you can without it and, particularly if the helmet is attached to the bike with an audio system cord, you cannot evacuate the area quickly should a fire be detected.

*Get OFF your motorcycle

For some reason this step seems to be ignored more often than any other. Maybe it 'looks' good. Maybe it's just too much

work to get off when you're tired. Whatever, putting fuel into your tank while you're straddling the bike is dangerous! If there is a gasoline spill your crotch will get wet. Then what do you do?

* Fill the tank, but not to the top

Gasoline expands as it warms up. Some gas tanks are not sealed units and if you fill them to the top they can easily leak. Some motorcycles have dual (side-by-side) tanks that are connected internally. There is a 'secret' you should know about filling these bikes - when putting gasoline into the higher tank WATCH the level in the lower one. Since you are on your sidestand the bike is leaning and overflow from the higher tank will go to the lower one. Obviously, with this kind of system you cannot fill the highest tank without overfilling the lower one. This is one reason why owners of these bikes tend to sit on them when they fill up - to keep the bike vertical so they can load as much gasoline as possible. But it's obvious why you shouldn't do so (odds are good you will stop and put your sidestand down before you have burned up enough gasoline to prevent leakage.)

*Do not smoke within 20 feet of a gas pump

*Keep your ignition switch in the OFF position any time your filler cap is off your tank.

(Especially do not use your CB.)

Actually, I should have asked what you would do if it spilled on any part of you or your clothes. This is so important I will offer my own suggestions at this point.

DRENCH with water!

THEN take that article of clothing OFF!!

DO NOT WALK IF THERE IS GASOLINE ON YOUR CLOTHES!!!

Static electricity can easily ignite gasoline fumes.

Allow wet clothes to dry OUTSIDE. If you happen to be at home, DO NOT PUT THESE CLOTHES INTO A WASHER/DRYER!!!!

If you can smell gasoline on them there is enough to ignite.

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Think Your Unnoticed?

Paul and I are trying to build the best program in the DOD. And from what feedback we are receiving it sounds like we are well on our way to achieving this goal.

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As with all goals we may experience temporary setbacks. I don't get discouraged by these setbacks unless they are self-inflicted. By nature of our jobs we have to visit the wing safety office every now and then. It is quite discouraging when the safety director for the base is telling you about motorcyclists acting in an unsafe manner.

Now we are not as anal to be discussing five miles over the speed limit, or not using your turn signal. I am being told of a red sport bike that leaves the housing gate everyday turns toward New Egypt and proceeds to ride a GP style wheelie past Three Brothers pizza. Or the yellow bike that makes the left out of the gate and goes from a solid to barely visible blur of paint and metal.

I haven't been in the military a tremendously long time, but I have witnessed two fellow Airmen get booted due to such behavior. Even if your off base, if your in your uniform you should mind your P's and Q's. You are representing the entire McGuire AFB population. Unfortunately you are more visible, everyone knows your military. It would only take a phone call back to base about your riding and your life would become difficult.

So when your out, use common sense don't do things to draw attention to yourself. Maintain that professional image we strive so hard to achieve. Your career is not worth jeopardizing for a little showing off!

This article is not meant to place any blame, we just need to open a few eyes. If the shoe fits!

Upcoming Events!!

Note: Meeting Place is being changed to save time. This is being made from feedback from some of the riders. Also our Freehold ride is leaving earlier, trying to get better parking.

Aug 20: Ride to Lansdale, Pa
Garden Spot Diner at 537 and 545/680.
Meet time is 1700, Leaving at 1715

Aug 25-27 RSS (beginner)
For info contact your safety rep.

Range help needed

Aug. 26: Ride to Freehold, NJ
Garden Spot Diner at 537 and 545/680
Meet time is 1745, Leaving at 1800

Sep. 09: ERC (experience)
For info contact your safety rep.
Range help needed

Sep. 16: Mandatory Safety Brief
Harley Davidson Plant
Duty Day Ride to York, PA
0800 Place TBA Will be leaving by 0900

Note: Classes are not limited to AF personnel, if you can link a person to the DOD they are welcome. Spouses, dependants, retirees, civilians, and contractors if you have any ?'s call Paul or myself at the numbers below.

Contact Us:

SSgt Paul Fung 4-2843

SSgt Jeff Richards 4-5893

Information on:

Public Folder/ 305AMW/ Wing Safety/ Ground Safety/ Motorcycle Safety

Safety Gear Required by AFI 91-207; THE AIR FORCE TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

- λ Operator and any passenger must wear a protective helmet
- λ Operator and any passenger must wear impact resistant goggles or a full-face shield on their helmet
- λ Brightly colored or contrasting vest or jacket as an outer garment during the day and reflective during the night. Outer upper garment will be clearly visible and not covered.
 - λ Long sleeved shirts or jackets
 - λ Full fingered motorcycle gloves or mittens
 - λ Long trousers
 - λ Sturdy foot wear

Please disseminate this newsletter to all motorcyclists you know. If you know of a place to post it please do. If you are interested in submitting an article please contact us.